



CV FIBER BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

GoToMeeting (virtual meeting only)

October 27, 2020

Members Present:

Michael Birnbaum (Plainfield), David Healy (Calais), Jeremy Matt (Plainfield), Ray Pelletier (Northfield), Jerry Diamantides (Berlin), Greg Kelly (Barre City), Siobhan Perricone (Orange), Jeremy Hansen (Berlin), Ken Jones (Montpelier)

Others Present:

Henry Amistadi (Duxbury), Andy Gilbert (Cabot), Chuck Burt (Moretown), Andrew Gilbert (Cabot)

Called to order: 5:30PM by David Healy via GoToMeeting

Additions to the Agenda:

- None

Public comment:

- None

Approval of the October 13, 2020 meeting minutes:

- **MOTION** (Jeremy Matt, second Siobhan Perricone): to approve the October 13, 2020 minutes with the modification that Chuck Burt is not a member of the committee and should be moved to “Others Present”. Motion passed unanimously. No discussion

COVID grant round 2 and assignments:

- David Healy reported that he spent the last two weeks making sure that our projects conform to the expected requirements from the Department of Public Service. The RFP is completed and has been sent to Jeremy Hansen for review. Includes the two fiber to the premise projects and the outreach project. Based on last board meeting where Michael Birnbaum said that he wasn't sure he could do fixed the fixed wireless (we'd have to get someone else to do just about everything besides hang the antennas on the poles), David Healy said that he is dropping that project from the proposals that we're going to send to the Department of Public Service. The amounts might be amended, but as it stands we're requesting

\$235,000 for the Waitsfield Champlain Valley Telecom project, \$90,000 for the ECFiber project, and \$75,000 for the three-phase outreach project. Jeremy Hansen said that he will take a look at it tonight. Greg Kelly indicated that he supports what David submitted.

- David Healy said that related to that, we need to get out RFPs to do this work. Ray Pelletier has put a lot of work into massaging the RFP for the outreach effort that David started. We need to figure out what we're going to provide the canvassers (IE are we going to provide them with tablets/phones? David thinks that we should not). However, we will provide them with the addresses we want them to look at.
- David said that the next item is the web development RFP and the RFP to prepare the materials for the canvassing effort.

Waitsfield Champlain Valley Telecom FTTP project:

- MOTION (Jeremy Hansen, second Jeremy Matt) to find that premature public disclosure of our contract negotiations with Waitsfield Champlain Valley Telecom would put us at a substantial negotiating disadvantage. Passed unanimously. No discussion.
- MOTION (Jeremy Hansen, second Siobhan Perricone) to enter executive session to discuss the WCVT project and to allow Chuck Burt, Henry Amistadi, and Andy Gilbert to remain for the executive session. Passed unanimously. No discussion.
- Enter executive session: 5:46
- Exit executive session: 6:07
- MOTION (Jeremy Matt, second Greg Kelly) to have Tim Shea negotiate with WCVT to prepare an MOU to construct fiber in Moretown contingent on the availability of COVID funding from the State. Passed unanimously. Discussion:
 - Ray Pelletier noted that Tim Shea is not going to execute the MOU, he's going to hammer something out and then bring it back to board for approval

ECFiber FTTP project:

- David Healy stated that we need to have a discussion about ECFiber about what they're willing to do, who is going to build what in Roxbury, and how Washington might be split up.
- Ray Pelletier noted that Tim Shea was going to talk to them about all these details and that we discussed the negotiation points ad nauseum in the previous board meeting. However, Tim hasn't connected with them yet, so this discussion is premature.

Roundtable:

- Ken Jones asked what the RDOF schedule is. Michael Birnbaum said that the auction starts on Thursday and there will be one bidding round each day on weekdays for an unknown period of time. The FCC has the option of increasing the number of bidding rounds per day. There will be no round on the Friday after bidding starts. Bidding will probably continue into November before a clearing round will occur (a clearing round is when census blocks can be won). Bidding will probably end in December but might go into January. The FCC then has 30-days to announce the winners, at which point winners need to submit a long form application for vetting. The vetting process could take as much as 9 months. Michael said he thinks there will be a public list of winners available before the long forms

are completed. He also noted that winners are *NOT* allowed to indicate that they've won – the prohibited communication requirement applies through the long form application process.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:29PM

Respectfully submitted,
Jeremy Matt, Clerk